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AD NUMBER
AD861694
NEW LIMITATION CHANGE
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AUTHORITY
BDRL ltr, 29 Sep 1971

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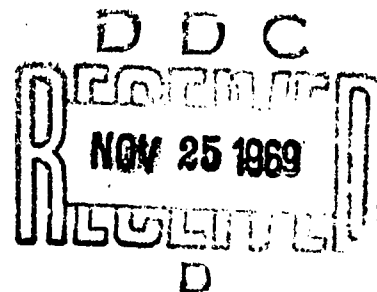
TECHNICAL MANUSCRIPT 548

ALTERED HOST RANGE  
BY HOST-CONTROLLED MODIFICATION  
OF STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS TYPING PHAGE 71

Ivan D. Goldberg  
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OCTOBER 1969

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Medical Bacteriology Division  
BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES LABORATORIES

Project 1B061102B71A

October 1969

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We thank the National Communicable Disease Center, Atlanta, Georgia, for the typing phages and indicator strains. Isolate 6N-15 of Staphylococcus aureus 100 was obtained from M.E. Friedman, Fort Detrick, who also provided many helpful discussions.

#### ABSTRACT

Phage 71 propagated on Staphylococcus aureus 71 has a calculated efficiency of  $6 \times 10^{-9}$  on S. aureus 100, isolate 6N-15. After propagation on 6N-15, a modified phage is produced that plaques with an efficiency of 1.0 on 6N-15 and  $5 \times 10^{-10}$  on 71.

ALTERED HOST RANGE BY HOST-CONTROLLED MODIFICATION  
OF STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS TYPING PHAGE 71\*

During attempts to find a phage with a high efficiency of plating (EOP) on Staphylococcus aureus 6N-15, a derivative of S. aureus 100,<sup>1</sup> we tested 35 staphylococcal typing phages. None plated on 6N-15 with an EOP higher than  $10^{-3}$ . This report is concerned with a reciprocal host-controlled modification of one of the typing phages, 71, that resulted in a  $10^8$ - to  $10^9$ -fold increase in plating efficiency on 6N-15.

Phages were usually propagated at 37 C in shaken flasks of trypticase soy (TS) broth (BBL) supplemented with 400  $\mu$ g  $\text{CaCl}_2$  per ml.<sup>2</sup> Flasks were inoculated with a 10% transfer of a 16-hour culture. Cells were infected at a multiplicity of 0.5 to 1.0 and incubation was usually continued until lysis. Phage 71·6N-15 could also be propagated on TS broth agar + 400  $\mu$ g  $\text{CaCl}_2$  per ml (bottom layer 1.5% agar, top layer 0.5% agar).

Phages were assayed by the agar layer technique.<sup>3</sup> For phage 71·6N-15, the bottom layer (25 ml) contained 30 g of TS broth + 400  $\mu$ g  $\text{CaCl}_2$  per ml and 15 g of agar (Difco) per liter; the top layer (3 ml) contained 30 g of TS broth + 400  $\mu$ g  $\text{CaCl}_2$  per ml and 5 g of agar per liter. Phages 71·71 and 71·6N-15·71 could be assayed on the same medium, but more discrete plaques were obtained when the top layer contained 37 g of brain heart infusion broth (Difco) instead of the TS broth. Indicator cells ( $5 \times 10^7$  per plate) were grown in a modified version of the medium of Chu et al.<sup>1, \*\*</sup> consisting of 4% N-Z-Amine, type NAK (Sheffield), 0.2% yeast extract (Difco), and 0.2% glucose, pH 6.7. Usually, freshly grown 6-hour cells were used, although the cultures could be stored at 4 C for 3 days without appreciable change in plating efficiency.

Table 1 shows the plating efficiencies of restricted and modified phage 71. Phage 71 that had been propagated on S. aureus 71 plaqued at an extremely low efficiency on S. aureus 6N-15. However, progeny phages (71·6N-15) from a plaque that appeared on 6N-15 following plating of phage 71·71 were found to have undergone reciprocal host-controlled modification.<sup>4</sup> The isolated phage was purified by several single-plaque isolations on 6N-15. Phage 71·6N-15 plaqued with a high efficiency on 6N-15 but its relative efficiency on 71 was only  $5 \times 10^{-9}$ . That this alteration was probably host-controlled and not the result of a mutation can be seen from the results shown in the third line of Table 1. Phage 71·6N-15·71 was isolated from a plaque that appeared on strain 71 after plating 71·6N-15. The EOP of phage 71·6N-15·71 was similar to that of 71·71 on strain 71. The data shown in Table 1 also reveal that the modification altered the EOP on S. aureus strain 55. All three restricted and modified phages adsorbed >99% to strains 71 and 6N-15, indicating that the changes in EOP were not the result of tail alterations.

\* This report should not be used as a literature citation in material to be published in the open literature. Readers interested in referencing the information contained herein should contact the senior author to ascertain when and where it may appear in citable form.

\*\* M.E. Friedman, personal communication.

TABLE 1. ASSAY OF PHAGES 71·71, 71·6N-15, AND 71·6N-15·71  
ON STRAINS OF S. AUREUS

Phage	Plaque-Forming Units/ml on Indicator Bacteria		
	71	6N-15	55
71·71	$4.5 \times 10^{10}$	$2.5 \times 10^2$	$3.2 \times 10^{10}$
71·6N-15	$6 \times 10^0$	$1.2 \times 10^{10}$	$<10^3$
71·6N-15·71	$9.8 \times 10^9$	$4 \times 10^1$	$1.1 \times 10^{10}$

Although host-controlled modification has previously been reported to occur in S. aureus,<sup>5,6</sup> our system is unusual in the magnitude of the restriction and modification observed. For this reason, the phage 71 system should be useful for the investigation of the molecular basis of restriction and modification in S. aureus. We also suggest that it might be possible, through the use of host-controlled modification, to alter the host ranges of the existing typing phages so that they could be used to identify "untypable" strains of S. aureus.

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Unclassified  
Security Classification

DOCUMENT CONTROL DATA - R & D		
(Security classification of title, body of abstract and indexing annotation must be entered when the overall report is classified)		
1. ORIGINATING ACTIVITY (Corporate author)		26. REPORT SECURITY CLASSIFICATION
Department of the Army Fort Detrick, Frederick, Maryland, 21701		Unclassified
2. REPORT TITLE		23. GROUP
ALTERED HOST RANGE BY HOST-CONTROLLED MODIFICATION OF <u>STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS</u> TYPING PHAGE 71		
4. DESCRIPTIVE NOTES (Type of report and inclusive dates)		
5. AUTHOR(S) (First name, middle initial, last name)		
Ivan D. Goldberg Theodore Bryan		
6. REPORT DATE	72. TOTAL NO. OF PAGES	73. NO. OF REFS
October 1969	9	6
22. CONTRACT OR GRANT NO.		24. ORIGINATOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S)
A. PROJECT NO. 1B061102B71A		Technical Manuscript 548
C.		25. OTHER REPORT NO(S) (Any other numbers that may be assigned this report)
D.		CMs 6568
10. DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT		
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11. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES		12. SPONSORING MILITARY ACTIVITY
		Department of the Army Fort Detrick, Frederick, Maryland, 21701
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14. Key Words		
<u>S. aureus</u> Lysis Bacteriophage Host-controlled modification Restriction		

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